



# Levitt LETTER

Brethren, my heart's  
desire and prayer to  
God for Israel is that  
they might be saved.  
— ROMANS 10:1

Credit: Dad Grass / Upsplash



## Best Hanukkah Gift Ever

By Dan Strull / LifeInMessiah.org

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As a boy growing up in a politically liberal, all-guns-are-anathema family in New York City, my interest in firearms was suppressed. After moving from the city in my early 20s, I finally got to indulge my childhood fascination. My new non-gun-averse friends took me plinking for gophers and hunting for quail and deer. Though I was a failure as a hunter, I had a blast anyway.

My wife, Cynthia, wasn't wild about guns but she patiently indulged me as these opportunities arose. So, you can imagine my utter shock and elation when, for my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, she surprised me with a 12-gauge shotgun!

Had I bought one for myself, it would have been a brand new, semi-automatic shotgun, with every bell and whistle available. Yet not even a rig like that could top Cynthia's gift — a well-used, basic, pump-action shotgun.

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#### REMEMBER:

**Christmas:** Wednesday, Dec. 25

**Hanukkah:** Sunset Dec. 25 to sunset Jan. 2

## Reflections of a Messianic Jew on Christmas

By Gil Afriat  
TiferetYeshua.org

Growing up in Israel in the 1970s and 80s, I had no idea about Christmas other than the images of the beautiful lights, trees, and decorations that we saw in pictures and movies from America and Europe. While some Arab Christian neighborhoods displayed lights during the Christmas season, generally, few people in Israel knew that it was



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# Reflections of a Messianic Jew on Christmas

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**Christmas on December 25.** It was just another day.

In my early 20s, after I came to faith in Yeshua, my wife and I moved to the U.S. Then, I experienced the Christmas holiday that, as a Jew, I had never known. The colorful lights and decorations, along with the holiday gatherings, made that dark and cold time of the year joyful and beautiful. It was special to join with fellow Believers\* during Christmas church services worshiping the King of Israel. The words of Christmas songs celebrating the birth of the Jewish Messiah in my homeland, Israel, touched me deeply.

## Baby Jesus

Beyond the consumerism and materialism that infiltrate much of America's Christmas season, one thing about the holiday felt a little strange to me — the widespread focus on Yeshua as a baby. I was already a Believer, but I gave little thought to Him as a baby. However, as I considered this "baby Jesus" focus during Christmas, I realized that Isaiah spoke of the Child Messiah. The terms that the prophet used to describe this special Child are a majestic description of His mighty and awesome character and calling.

## What Child is This?

**Isaiah 9:6 describes the Child who will carry the government on His shoulders.** God's juxtaposing the smallness and weakness of a human child with the weight of this mighty calling on His shoulders highlights the plan of salvation in such an astounding way!

Next come the heavy titles that this Child carries: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty

God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Each title reveals who Yeshua is — His calling and identity. The nuances in the original Hebrew terms reveal different levels of meaning and connections that can be lost in translation.

*Pele Yoetz* (Wonderful Counselor) — If we allow Yeshua to be our personal Counselor, He will do wonders in our lives! *Pele* is the Hebrew word for "wonder," and Messiah's name as "Wonderful" recalls a scene in the Torah where the "Man God" in the form of the Angel of Yahweh describes Himself to Samson's father in Judges 13:18, saying: "*My name is wonderful (pele).*"

*El Gibor* (Mighty God)

— This title makes absolutely clear that the Messiah who is born a human child is the Mighty God Himself!

*Avi'Ad* (Everlasting Father)

— This title can be confusing because Yeshua is God the Son, but He is not God the Father. So, what does this mean? Here, understand-

ing the Hebrew can be helpful. Looking at the Hebrew grammar, *Avi'Ad* can just as easily be translated as "Father of Eternity," which makes much more sense: It is only through Yeshua that we have eternal life. He is the Father of our eternal life.

*Sar Shalom* (Prince of Peace) — This Child is the bringer of peace — first in our hearts in this age. Then in the Messianic age, He will be the One who brings global peace — a great task indeed!

To everyone who celebrates the birth of our Messiah this Christmas season, I pray that the deep and awesome revelation of the Child who is Mighty God fills your hearts with wonder and light! ✨



Credit: Maria Levkina / iStock



\* "Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."



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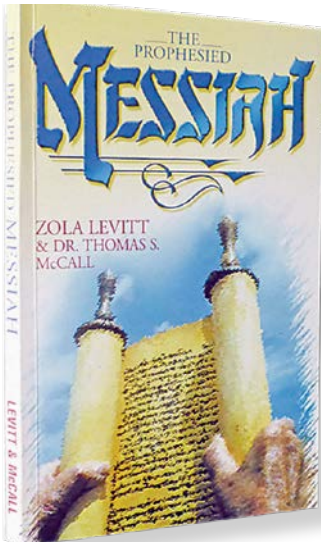
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## The Prophesied Messiah book

**The Prophesied Messiah** book contains the major prophecies of the Messiah, along with color photos and Holy Land maps from our television series of the same name. It's extremely important that Believers are able to prove Yeshua as Messiah from Old Testament Scripture, thus showing objective evidence that our Lord is indeed "The Prophesied Messiah." Comes with a free *Messiah* bookmark, described on p. 33.

One of our all-time most popular books. See Zola's original TV teaching for free in our video archives: [levitt.tv/media/series/VMST](http://levitt.tv/media/series/VMST)

# Best Hanukkah Gift Ever

*continued from cover*



What made this gift outstanding was not the shotgun itself but what it represented — a priceless, self-sacrificial love. That shotgun said to me that Cynthia understands and cherishes who I am and acts on it at personal expense. Her gift to me was vastly greater than the one I might have chosen for myself.

The best gifts are not beautiful, expensive, or even what we think we want. **The best gifts are meaningful; they say, "I love you" by communicating, "I understand who you are."**

During Hanukkah, Yeshua (Jesus) pointed to Himself as just such a gift. With the Maccabee victory over the Greeks on their minds during Hanukkah (the Feast of Dedication, John 10:22–39), the Jewish leadership in Yeshua's time had a vivid picture of the "gift" they wanted.

Here's what they asked: *"How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly"* (John 10:24). Here's what they wanted to know: "Are you the gift we want, a Maccabee-like Messiah who will ascend David's throne as king in Jerusalem, vanquish our Roman overlords,

drive them from the land, and bring peace, prosperity, and justice to Israel, thus establishing God's promised Kingdom throughout the Earth?" Nothing less would make them happy.

Yeshua's reply, *"I told you, and you do not believe"* (John 10:25), explained why many struggled to recognize Him as Messiah. He was offering something greater than mere political deliverance (John 10:28). Then He shocked them by saying, *"I and the Father are one"* (John 10:30) — a direct claim to deity and equality with God!

**Why, at Hanukkah, did Yeshua point to His deity** in response to their question about the Messiah? Because He was offering a gift vastly more valuable, the one that they would not have chosen for themselves.

Like us, the religious leaders in the first century thought that what they needed and wanted could be provided by political, economic, and social means. They assumed that if God provided the right man to rule on Israel's throne with enough power and authority, that leader would rid them of their enemies, bringing peace and prosperity to their nation.



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Yeshua knew that even if they got what they wanted, it would not be enough.

The Maccabees themselves experienced this. Their 164 B.C. victory over Antiochus IV Epiphanes and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple, both hard-won military and political struggles, were short-lived. By 67 B.C. the corruption of Israel's leadership, themselves descended from the Maccabees, resulted in a civil war and the conquest of Jerusalem by Rome's General Pompey in 63 B.C.

Yeshua understood the reason for this failure. Until our inborn rebellion against God's rule in our lives is transformed, and His Kingdom is established on Earth, we are doomed to live out the same failures and defeats, generation after generation.

In the wake of the horrors of October 7 in Israel and the subsequent display of worldwide anti-Semitism, my people (the Jewish people) are longing once again for our enemy's defeat so we can live in peace. And like our ancestors — the Maccabees and the people of Yeshua's day — my people's hope is in military and political leaders.

They are unaware that even the best outcome of the current conflict will be temporary.

**What we really need is not new leaders, but new life** — something God alone provides. By pointing to His deity during Hanukkah, Yeshua is saying, "I am the gift you really need, offered in love and at great personal cost."

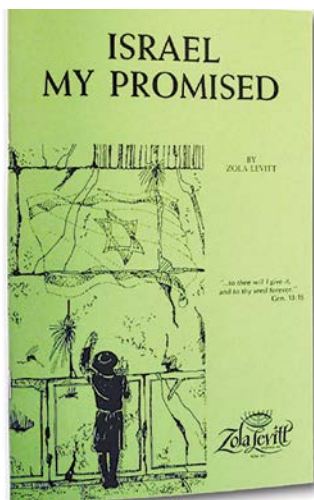
As we pray for Israel's military victory over Hamas, and a just and peaceful political future for Gazans and Israelis alike, let us not fail to pray for many to find the narrow path leading to life, and the lasting peace of Messiah's Millennial rule on Earth.

*"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven'"* (Matt. 6:9-10).

May we be among the faithful who cry out night and day, longing for the justice of Messiah's return!

*"... Will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the Earth?"* (Luke 18:7-8)

The Maccabees experienced an incredible miracle. This year, may you and your family experience God's miracles too. —David ✧



## [Israel My Promised](#) study booklet

See Israel through the eyes of Zola Levitt, a faithful son who made the land of his Father his life's work. A love letter from a sincere writer to his homeland. An intensely personal and heartfelt look at God's country, one of the most misunderstood lands in all history.

# Seeking Shalom

Do you remember the famous song, *The Impossible Dream*, from the Broadway musical *Man of La Mancha*? The main character, Don Quixote, sings of a quest: "To right the unrightable wrong, to love pure and chaste from afar, to try when your arms are too weary, to reach the unreachable star."

Don Quixote was on a quest to find something he did not have. I can relate to his quest, as I seem to be searching for the impossible dream of *shalom* in this time of great sorrow and unrest. For some reason, sorrow seems more prevalent than peace. While some people use the Hebrew word *shalom* to refer to the absence of conflict, it has a deeper meaning. It reflects a state of harmony and tranquility that goes beyond external circumstances.

## Peace on Earth

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, or both, we are in a season when we seek "*peace on Earth, goodwill to men*," as the angel proclaimed to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem (Luke 2:14). Many people desire peace and goodwill for others. **But why does it seem so difficult to find lately?**

The ongoing Israeli conflict has deprived many of the peace that they desire. I can't imagine the horrors experienced by the families of Israeli captives who wonder whether their child, sibling, or spouse is still alive in Gaza. Will they ever see their loved ones again? What atrocities

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**Kirsten Hart**  
Studio co-host of  
*Our Jewish Roots*



have they experienced over the past 14 months? How do Israelis even get up each day and function normally in the present while being constantly flooded with thoughts of the agonizing past and an uncertain future?

### **A Non-Troubled Heart**

At Jesus' incarnation, the world He entered was also tormented by a heinous regime that threatened peace and normalcy. Though our Savior was born during a time when peace was difficult to find, He was called the Prince of Peace. And through His life, death, and resurrection, the impossible dream became possible, but not because of anything that humans had done or could do.

The constant barrage of evil in today's news makes it difficult to experience any sense of peace. Still, we should strive for it. In John 14:27 (TLV), Jesus stressed, *"Shalom I leave you, My shalom I give to you; but not as the world gives! Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid."* **The only way that we can achieve peace is by seeking God's presence.** Jesus promised that we can find true *shalom* through Him. That is truly wonderful news! ✨

**Happy Hanukkah and  
Merry Christmas!**



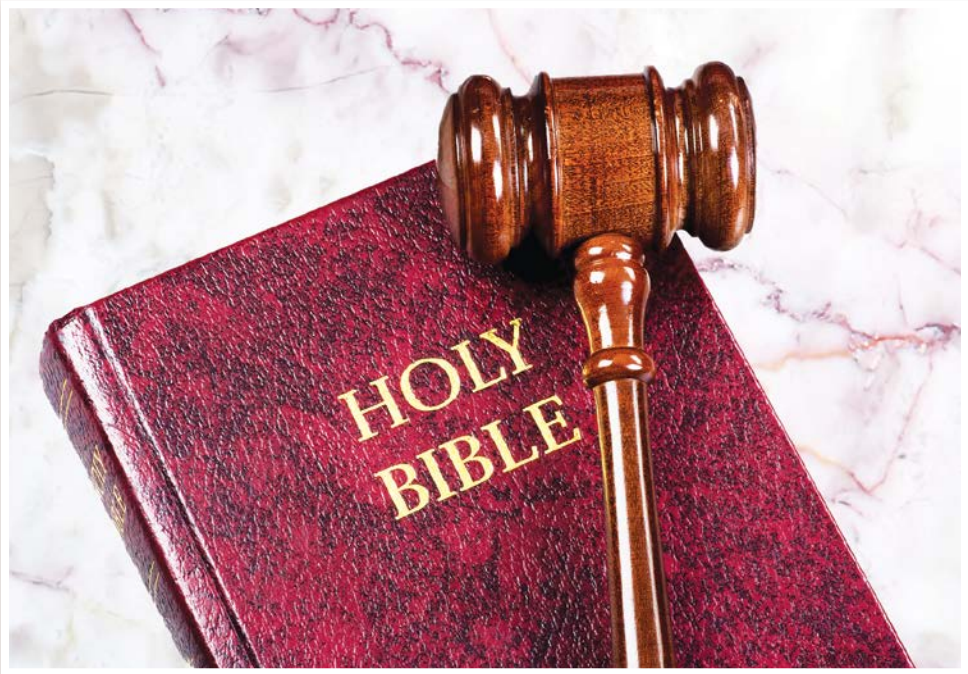
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# Don't Judge Me?

Caleb & Joshua Colson  
The Bearded Bible  
Brothers™



credit: mjo007 / iStock



This won't be a typical Hanukkah or Christmas narrative, but it's Biblical and divinely inspired.

Almost 3,500 years ago, God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Along this arduous journey, Joshua zealously committed to Moses until Moses' rebellion prohibited him from entering the Promised Land. Because of Joshua's (and Caleb's) faithfulness, God eventually promoted him to lead Israel in claiming their inheritance. During Joshua's lifetime at war, he followed one essential refrain: *Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD* (Josh. 24:15).

Upon Joshua's death, the period of the Judges begins. Throughout this era, Israel fell into one of two traps that continually plagued the nation: sin or disbelief. Regardless of how many times God delivered Israel, at some point the nation (not unlike a professional football player who lost his short-term memory) started sinning again with the idols of their neighbors. This is more than rebellion — it's a literal conversion! They abandoned

faith or belief in one deity for another. Since they were isolated — living in territorial tribes without clear leadership for a united nation — neighboring enemies overtook Israel again and again because God removed His hand of protection.

Why all the back story? (Yes, we know that this remedial history could be covered in 32 felt board lessons in Sunday School.) In the Book of Judges, God has a unique way of delivering Israel; it's not by a king, a president, or a Homeowners Association (HOA — We firmly believe that HOAs are unbiblical, but that's another story). God used flawed, average, normal people — just like you and us — to save the Israelites.

What was the prerequisite for being an Othniel, Gideon, Samson, Shamgar, Deborah, Jephthah, or Ehud? The answer is simple: being willing(ish). For an example of this, look at Gideon. There's a reason the word "fleece" is synonymous with him. Gideon nervously asked God for so many confirming signs that the dictionary should have put his picture next to the entry for "fleece."

*(continued on next page)*



The Book of Judges chronicles some of the most epic, violent, and crazy histories in the Bible. Ever heard of Shamgar? His whole life warrants a single verse:

*After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. He too saved Israel (Judg. 3:31).*

Imagine being the guy who smote 600 Philistines with a pointed stick!

God has one condition for using anyone: obedience. The Father calls on “regular” people to change the world, yet we typically disqualify ourselves because we refuse to obey. Some of us question our value, while others may blatantly rebel or won’t let go of sin. Remember, before God used Gideon to defeat the Midianites, the Lord first required him to destroy the local Baal altar. Unfortunately, failure to destroy local altars is where God loses most applicants.

Even today, the *“wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23). The United States and our world stand at a pivotal junction in

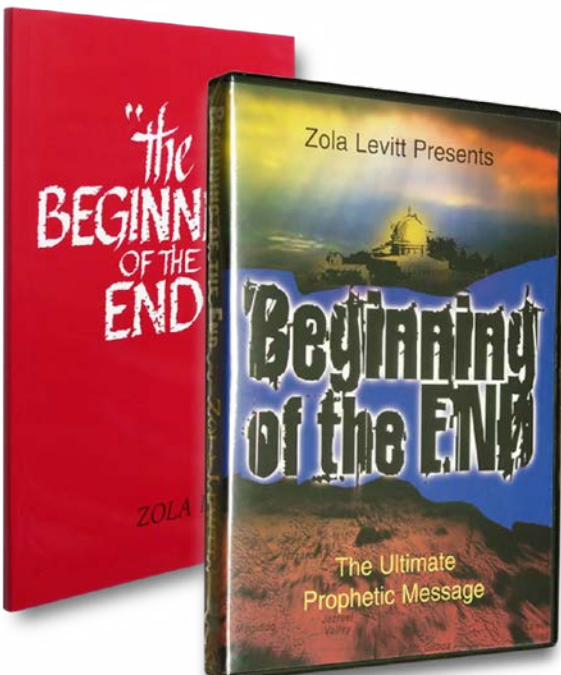
history. Soon, we may suffer bondage for our sin, just as the ancient Israelites did. While the elections are over (and you may not like the outcome), God is still searching for righteous men and women to stand up and lead His people to repentance. Just as during the time of the Judges, He’s not looking for a king, but a willing servant:

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole Earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him (2 Chron. 16:9).*

Don’t be caught clinging to sin. Make the choice now to be ready, vigilant, and willing to usher in God’s world-changing presence. ✨

Happy Hanukkah!

*Caleb & Joshua*



## *The Beginning of the End* book & teaching/music CDs

A most unusual study with a dramatic urgency. The Rapture, the antiChrist, the Third Temple, Armageddon, and the Second Coming are among the subjects considered, along with world affairs leading to The End. A must-read! The CD version (2 CDs) includes the original music and soundtrack of the dramatic TV series. (See [levitt.tv/media/series/VBOE](http://levitt.tv/media/series/VBOE) to view the messages.)



I was amazed by the recent headline in *The Dallas Morning News*: "Battle Call by Arafat Fuels Riot." I think this is the first time since 1969, when Arafat's long and bloody reign began, that an American newspaper has acknowledged that the Palestinian dictator, a terrorist his whole life, has caused the terrorism in Israel.

With the media, which dutifully films every Palestinian funeral (have we ever seen so many funerals filmed during "wars"?), the Palestinian mobs are whipped into a virulent frenzy (for the cameras) and fight hopelessly, wielding rocks against guns. Arafat has called them "to continue, wave after wave ... until victory."

The Israelis, for their part, try to dissuade them as gently as possible, which is not easy with a frantic mob. When one considers the superior weaponry Israel has and the small casualty figures that have actually occurred, **we must realize that Israel is being very patient.** They are reasoning that there has to be a moment when even the most dedicated Palestinian zealot will understand that this "battle" is pointless and hopeless.

At fault is the peace process. Nine years of false hopes and posturing by diplo-

rats and handshakes for cameras have produced exactly nothing. In fact, the process has gone backward. Rather than youngsters throwing small stones at a few border policemen, we now have Palestinian adults using the rifles (given to them to police their own people) against Israeli regular army soldiers. Since false peace is the theme of the upcoming Tribulation period, many feel that the present situation leads directly to the antiChrist. The most serious point of the media coverage of this so-called "war" is that it brings international pressure to bear upon Israel, which is a major theme of the Great Tribulation.

**Some people ask, "Why should we pray for the peace of Jerusalem"** when we know from prophecy that there won't really be peace until the Prince of Peace returns?" The answer to that is that it is God's own request (Ps. 122:6), and that even if the ultimate outcome is Armageddon, peace on any potential battlefield will preserve lives, among which will be some saved souls. We are never to turn our backs on Israel. That is the meaning of this ministry's criticism of liberal churches, our battles with the seminaries, and our constant teaching of the relevance of the prophets of the



Old Testament and the fully Jewish New Testament. Bible, Bible, and Bible is the solution to all of Israel's woes and to our own, as well, and any Believer knows that. Pretending that one is teaching the Bible while one is actually teaching error is no better than pretending to make peace while one is throwing rocks. But just as surely as Arafat cries, "This *Intifada* will never stop," some seminar-ies cry, "We will never abandon our false teaching."

What should be understood about the Arabs who call themselves Palestinians is that they are not particularly religious people. Jerusalem doesn't mean much to the vast majority of them, and Israel itself was never their land. Among these rioting mobs there are typically a few rabble-rousers, a bunch of neutral people trying to stay away from the front, and thousands who just yell slogans and pose for TV cameras. And finally, citizen for citizen, the majority of Palestinians would much rather live under the Israeli government than the corrupt regime of Arafat and his henchmen. So would most other citizens of the world.

The news keeps repeating that it is the Israelis who are the occupiers, and that the peace process might yet work. Neither one of those things is even remotely true, and the whole world knows it.

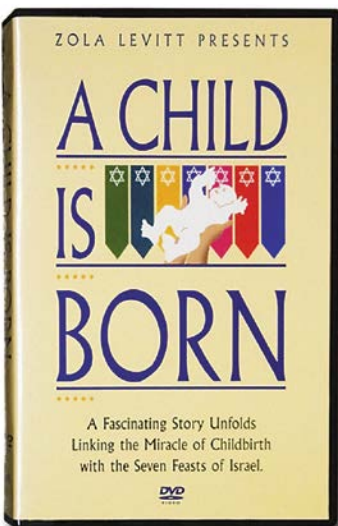
**The peace process can be given credit for nothing.** The silly "Arab Summit" in

Cairo — the Olympics of Israel-bashing — tried to make world headlines about Israel's supposed "war crimes." Even American reporters are smarter than that (in general).

*The Dallas Morning News* called the unrest an "age-old conflict." Truthfully, the conflict started in 1987 and is 13 years old. Another columnist, Bill Maxwell, wrote in the *Morning News*, "Why argue who came first, the Jews or the Palestinians?" Well, the Jews came in 2,000 B.C. — 4,000 years ago — and the Palestinians in A.D. 1964 — 36 years ago. So, I'm not arguing, either.

Here's an idea going around the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament): If there were a legitimate peace treaty that really held, then the countries would live separately but peacefully in Israel. As things are now, some Knesset members have thought of drawing a line on the ground and building a big fence or whatever, and unilaterally severing from the Palestinians, period. They will show passports like any visitors to come into Israel. If that's how the peace process has to end, then as the Israelis say, "*Lu Y'hi* — Let it be."

**After 24 more years of the same "age-old conflict," Palestinian (and other) terrorist leaders are now experiencing an unprecedented rate of "attrition." Amen!**  
—Kirsten ☆



## **A Child Is Born DVD**

**Links the miracle of childbirth with the Seven Feasts of Israel!**

Zola discovered, quite by accident, an amazing series of Biblical "coincidences." It seems that every one of us, as we develop in the womb, follows the schedule of the Seven Feasts of Israel that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. This half-hour program illustrates the surprising similarities of these two chains of events, each established by God according to His purpose.

## A Holocaust Survivor's Legacy

**Mark Levitt**  
ZLM Director  
since 1988



### Dear Reader,

The essence of the email exchange below is that you can help sustain our Jewish Israeli land agency, Immanuel Tours, during the ongoing tourism drought by shopping at their virtual gift shop. Please visit [TrueToIsrael.com](http://TrueToIsrael.com) to browse authentic Holy Land items created by Jewish Israelis who need your patronage.

Their collection sets include: Israel Jewelry, Hand-Painted Ceramics, Cosmetics of Israel, Israel Apparel, and Unique to Israel. Beyond that, you can choose from dozens of handpicked products including T-shirts, books, coasters, home décor ideas, honey, lotion, jewelry, olive oil, picture frames, and more.

To appreciate the decades-long history of Immanuel Tours as Israel's preeminent Messianic group tour



agency, please read about their founder — Holocaust survivor **Phillip Meyers** (left, in 1951), the patriarch of this reputable, top-drawer, family

business — at [Immanuel-Tours.com/blog/young-life-philip-meyers/](http://Immanuel-Tours.com/blog/young-life-philip-meyers/).

The bottom line is that our group tours have treasured working with Immanuel Tours for four decades. I invite you to order from their new online store so that we can count on them to host our future Bible study tours. —Mark



Sandra Luttrell,  
Travel Manager  
of Zola Tours

### New message

To **ZLM Staffers**

From **Sandra Luttrell**

What an honor and privilege it is to stand alongside Israel and fellow Believers like you in these Last Days, watching the Bible unfold before our very eyes (Matt. 24:4-8; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Dan. 12:1; Rev. 1:4-8; Luke 21:25-33). *"Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the LORD!"* (Ps. 118:26).

Some of you may already know, but I wanted to forward you all the email below from Immanuel Tours regarding the new store that they are launching to help themselves and their staff, along with local Israeli artisans, stay afloat during this devastating time that they are enduring.

May each of you and yours be covered in the sweetness of His glorious love, joy, good health, provision, protection, and *shalom* today and forevermore! (Num. 6:24-26)

Send



Thank  
you for  
supporting  
Israel.





From **Susan Eshed**

Susan Eshed, CEO of Immanuel Tours

To **Sandra Luttrell**

Shalom Sandra,

I pray that this message finds you in good health and spirits. I have seen your wonderful Facebook post in which you shared the news of our **True to Israel** online store, for which we are very grateful. I still wanted to share with you this message:

For over 50 years, Immanuel Tours has been blessed to guide Believers like you to the Holy Land. Your support has been such a meaningful part of that journey! Your continued support means everything to us, and I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for that.

In a few days, we will be standing in remembrance of the horrific attack on Israel last October 7. **This past year has been financially challenging for Immanuel Tours. We have had no group tour business whatsoever**, apart from some small delegations who came here especially to show solidarity with Israel.

It is especially hard for me, as we are struggling to hold on to our wonderful team of tour operators, who have been with us for many years — including Mette. I don't want to think of the possibility of shutting down the business that my father started over 50 years ago.

Today I am reaching out to you with a special request for assistance. My son Dan has been willing to step into the business and assist me, and for that I am so grateful. He came up with an idea a few months ago, which will help us to keep going.

We have just launched an online shop with Israeli products — **TrueToIsrael.com**. We would appreciate your publicizing this online shop with your friends, family, church members, and tour members. Encouraging them to purchase some items from our shop would be greatly appreciated. Through this

store, we are hoping to hold on until the time comes that tour groups, including Zola Tours, will return to Israel.

Here is more information about our new online venture:

We're excited to share with you a new way to stay connected with Israel and for Israel to be delivered to your doorstep. We've launched **TrueToIsrael.com** — an online store offering authentic, hand-picked goods from local Israeli artisans, businesses, and communities. With every purchase, you're directly supporting the people of Israel and helping sustain our group tour team at Immanuel Tours.

This is more than just shopping! It's a chance to:

- Support the people of Israel by purchasing genuine Israeli products that embody the beauty and spirit of the Land.
- Stand with Immanuel Tours by helping us continue to support the hardworking individuals who've made your Holy Land experiences unforgettable.

Your love for Israel has always shone brightly, and now your support will make a huge difference when it's needed most. **Please visit TrueToIsrael.com to explore our collection of authentic Israeli goods and gifts.** I hope that each item serves as a reminder of your connection to Israel, a land so close to your heart.

Thank you for your prayers, your trust, and for standing by Israel and Immanuel Tours. Your kindness and generosity are truly a blessing to us.

Susan

**What a wonderful way to help ZLM's Israeli friends (who are like family) while shopping for Christmas gifts! — Kirsten** ☆



# Who Are the Elect of God?

**Dr. Todd Baker**  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian  
staff@levitt.com



## Part 1

The elect are those who have been chosen and predestined by God for salvation and service to Him. Just as an employer chooses to hire an employee, so God chooses to elect every person whom He will save.

Faith follows election; God chooses first before anyone can choose Him. Jesus affirms this: *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you"* (John 15:16).

God chose the elect in eternity past — before anything was created, or humanity fell into sin. Paul states this in Ephesians 1:4 when referring to Believers: *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world."*

The doctrine of divine election — God's choosing the elect beforehand — is taught throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, eight passages emphasize Israel as God's elect (Deut. 7:6; Ex. 19:4–6; Ps. 135:4; Isa. 41:8–9; 43:10; 44:1–2; 45:4; Amos 3:2). **Despite Israel's widespread unbelief toward Jesus, God reaffirms their election in the New Testament** (Rom. 11:1–3). When Jesus returns, Israel's elect destiny will resume in the coming Messianic Kingdom.

Several New Testament passages (John 10:4–5; 1 Thess. 1:4–5; Eph. 1:4–14; 1 Pet. 1:1–2; 2:9; 5:13) also affirm the Church as God's elect. The Church includes those chosen and called from all nations, both Jews and gentiles who are redeemed through faith in Jesus Christ. Election is based solely on God's will rather than human actions, whether good or bad. Paul references Jacob and Esau in the womb (Gen. 25:21–23) to prove this: *"For the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls"* (Rom. 9:11). Divine election also depends solely on God's sovereign grace and mercy (Rom. 11:5–6) rather than human activity (Rom. 9:16).

Election is based upon God's foreknowledge (1 Pet. 1:2), which means that God knows everything that will happen. Still, humans are responsible to believe the Gospel of Christ for salvation. For those who reject the Gospel, God will hold them accountable for their unbelief on the Day of Judgment.

**Next month, we will consider the relationship between predestination and election.**



*He chose us in Him before  
the foundation of the world."*

EPHESIANS 1:4



# ZLM Bulletin Board



YouTube screenshot



Eitan Chitayat

## For Haters of Israel ...

**... and lovers of Hamas: A strong message to every college student....** Visit [youtu.be/17Za6QVevdk](https://youtu.be/17Za6QVevdk) to see this five-minute video from **Eitan Chitayat**. He emphasizes: You want to promote human rights. But you said nothing about the Arabs' murder or enslavement of more than a million Sudanese ... or when Syria killed half a million of its own citizens. You seem oddly particular about which humanitarian causes stir you to action while you're fans of Hamas — a group whose charter proudly supports genocide ... that uses rape as a weapon and throws gay people off rooftops. "Your concern to me is merely a pose, virtue signaling with garden variety Jew hate at its core. ... You will fail; Israel isn't going anywhere."

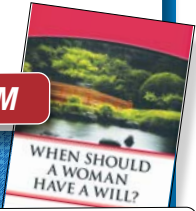
**Do Israeli Lives Matter?**  
Master Sgt. **Ari Zenilman**, a reservist in the IDF's Fifth Brigade, was killed in battle with Hamas. He was an American-Israeli who, in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, made *aliyah* from New York with his family. Intelligent and humble, Ari loved to read and quickly mastered Hebrew. On the morning of October 7, 2023, Ari hurried to Israel's south to help fend off Hamas's invasion with his reserve unit, which soon deployed to Gaza. On December 10, 2023, he was killed in Khan Younis. The 32-year-old left behind his widow, Chava, and three young children, Achiya, Tali, and Maayan. The youngest child, Maayan, was born a week before Hamas's devastating attack.



Ari with his three children during the week before Hamas's October 7 massacre

credit: Zenilman family

**FREE ITEM**



## Pamphlet of the Month

**When Should a Woman Have a Will?** addresses 11 points that include: when she is single or married, when she has children (minors or adults), when she owns property, and when her marital status changes. "A properly drafted will or trust can reduce estate taxes, probate expense, and other costs — even for modest estates." To receive this free pamphlet, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

**Request POM #6.**

## Goofball of the Month?

A pro-Hamas clown vandalized a restaurant over its Israeli flags. There was just one problem: Efi's Gyro in Montclair, New Jersey is a Greek restaurant. Still, the woman posted her video to TikTok, which she captioned, "The time I mistakenly thought the flag for Greek [Greece] was for Israel and took the restaurant's flag down!" In the video, she vandalizes the restaurant's outdoor decor while yelling, "There's genocide, and I don't stand for Zionism!" Soon the shocked restaurant staff advised her that "This is Greek!" Visit [youtube.com/shorts/HJTz29gVKgQ](https://youtube.com/shorts/HJTz29gVKgQ) to see the chucklehead in action.

## "COME HOME!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details





Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

## He Hears Your Prayers

by **John Parsons**  
Hebrew for Christians  
Hebrew4Christians.com



קָרוֹב יְהוָה לְכָל-קֹרְאָיו לְכָל אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָאֵהוּ בְאֱמֶת:

“The LORD is near to all who call out to Him,  
to all who will call out to Him in truth.” – Psalm 145:18

מֶת	בְּ	אֱ	הוּ	אֶ	רְ	יִקְ	רְ	אֲ	שֶׁר	לְ	כָל	לְ	אִיו	קְ	רְ	לְ	כָל-	לְ	יְהוָה	קָ	רוֹב
(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)
ve-e-met'			yeek-ra-oo'-hoo			a-sheer'			le-khol'			le-khol' - ko-re-ahv'			Adonai				ka-rohv'		
in truth			to all who will call out to Him						to all who call out to Him						near is the LORD						

Read Hebrew right to left!

Yeshua told us: *“If you live in Me, and My words live in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples”* (John 15:7-8).

If you really believe that Yeshua is alive right now, with ears and heart open to your every prayer, then would not His words in John 15:7-8 be the most important truth you could possibly know? And would not your prayer to Him be the most significant thing that you could ever do? Or do you not fully realize that you are as contemporary with Yeshua’s presence as were His contemporaries during the time of His Earthly ministry? Did He not say, *“I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* (Matt. 28:20)?

**A life of prayerful communion with the Lord is the highest form of life** that we can experience this side of Heaven. As our Lord also stated: *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you”* (John 15:16). Amen, this is the “now” covenant that we have with the Lord.

So be encouraged to call upon the Lord for help: Come boldly before the throne of His grace (Heb. 4:16). Every sincere prayer you utter to the Lord is answered. *“Ask, for it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened”* (Matt. 7:7-8). Amen. Call out to Him today. ☆





## [Close Encounters with Yeshua](#)

### DVD Set

Ten 30-minute programs on 2 DVDs

*Close Encounters with Yeshua* focuses on how Yeshua/Jesus came to Earth supernaturally, ministered, and today calls people to Him. David and Kirsten Hart introduce this ten-program series from the studio, while Myles and Katharine Weiss teach from Israel.

**God is Coming** Abraham's travels in the desert led him into dependence on and a deeper relationship with his God. *Interviews:* Dean Bye of Return Ministries; and Chaim Malespin of the Aliyah Return Center.

**Humble Beginnings** In a simple animal stall, Yeshua entered the world as a baby, lived to fulfill the Law, and promised to return as the Lion of Judah. *Interview:* Pastor Daniel Sayag of Carmel Congregation.

**Jewish Context** As a boy, Yeshua came to the Temple to offer sacrifices. Later, He became the sacrifice, the Lamb of God. *Interview:* Karen Davis of Carmel Congregation.

**Miraculous Ministry** Near the Sea of Galilee, Yeshua performed miracles that amazed many but disturbed others. *Interview:* Eric and Terri Morey of The Galilee Experience.

**Prophecy Fulfilled** At a synagogue in Magdala, likely visited by Yeshua Himself, Myles and Katharine remind us of Scripture's reliability. *Interview:* Pastor Juan Maria Solana of the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and the Magdala Center.

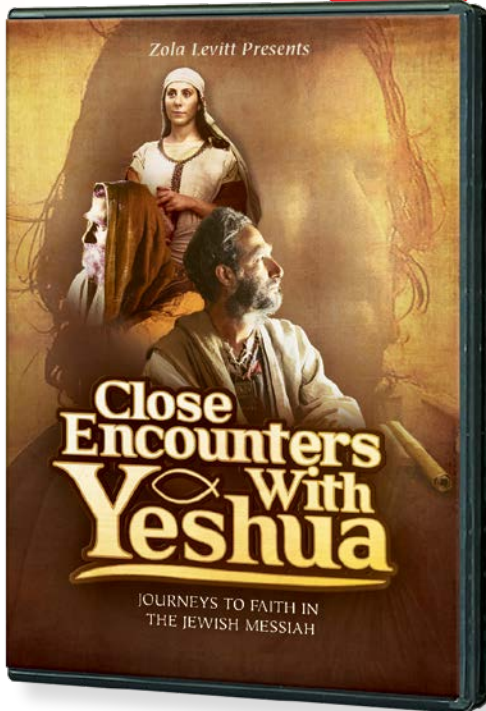
**Living Water** At the Pool of Siloam, location of cleansing rituals, Yeshua performed a miracle that proved Him prophet, priest, and the King we await. *Interview:* Arab pastor Vincent Shammamas.

**Mountaintop Experience** From the Mount of Transfiguration, where the Father honored His Son, Yeshua sent out His Disciples.

**Life Laid Down** Yeshua descended the Mount of Olives like a king, but surrendered His will in the Garden of Gethsemane. *Interview:* Carolyn Hyde, Heart of G-d Ministries.

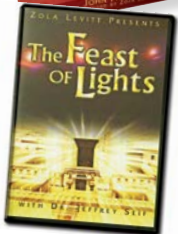
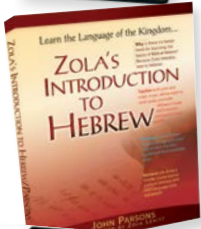
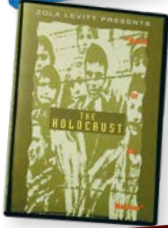
**Empty Tomb** The Crucifixion and the Cross led to the empty tomb, and thus removed the curse on mankind. *Interview:* Samuel Smadja of Messianic Assembly and Sar-El Tours.

**Interview with Gary Bayer** Writer and television presenter Gary Bayer explains how Yeshua, comforting him during his battle with cancer, became more real to him.





### Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library



Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	<b>A Christian Love Story</b> (pictured) .....	\$4	___
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___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved? .....	\$4	___
___	In My Father's House .....	\$4	___
___	<b>Israel My Promised</b> (p.5) .....	\$4	___
___	The Miracle of Passover .....	\$4	___
___	The Promised Land! .....	\$4	___
___	The Second Coming .....	\$4	___
___	Seven Churches— Does Yours Fit In? .....	\$4	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel .....	\$4	___
___	The Spirit of Pentecost .....	\$4	___
___	<b>Mix or Match:</b> ..... 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

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___	America's Godly Heritage (David Barton) .....	\$8	___
___	Antisemitic Beliefs (booklet) .....	2 for \$3	___
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___	The Bible Jesus Read .....	\$11	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy .....	\$12	___
___	The End (Mark Hitchcock) .....	\$26	___
___	<b>Heaven and Earth</b> (Ken Berg) (pictured) .....	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif) .....	\$9	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land! (booklet) .....	\$3	___
___	Israel Shines and Israel Pocket Facts (one of each) .....	\$2	___
___	Jerusalem Forever .....	\$5	___
___	The Mountains of Israel .....	\$10	___
___	Our Hands Are Stained with Blood .....	\$16	___
___	<b>The Prophesied Messiah</b> (p.3) .....	\$10	___
___	Satan in the Sanctuary .....	\$10	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium .....	\$8	___
___	What About Us? .....	\$10	___
___	The Warrior King (book) .....	\$12	___
___	What Should We Think About Israel? (Randall Price) .....	\$12	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (booklet - free with <i>Whose Land</i> DVD) .....	\$4	___
___	<b>Zola's Introduction to Hebrew</b> (John Parsons) (pictured) ..	\$39	___

### Featured DVDs

___	Called Together .....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>A Child is Born</b> (p.11) .....	(30 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	<b>Close Encounters with Yeshua</b> (p.17)(10 progs., 2-DVDs)		\$59	___
___	Divine Deliverance .....	(12 progs., 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Eretz Israel (The Land of Israel) .....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	Faith for the Future .....	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>The Feast of Lights</b> (pictured) .....	(3 progs., 1- DVD)	\$19	___
___	The God of Miracles .....	(9 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	<b>Times of the Signs</b> (p.20) .....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>Whose Land Is It?</b> (pictured) .....	(3 progs., 1- DVD)	\$19	___
___	Zion Forever .....	(9 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$59	___

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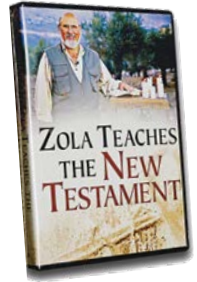
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Qty.	Item	Price	Total
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**Teaching CDs**

_____	<b>The Beginning of the End</b> (includes music) (p.9).... (2 CDs)	\$14	_____
_____	The Seven Feasts of Israel..... (CD)	\$8	_____
_____	<b>Zola Teaches the New Testament</b> (pictured)..... (6 CDs)	\$29	_____

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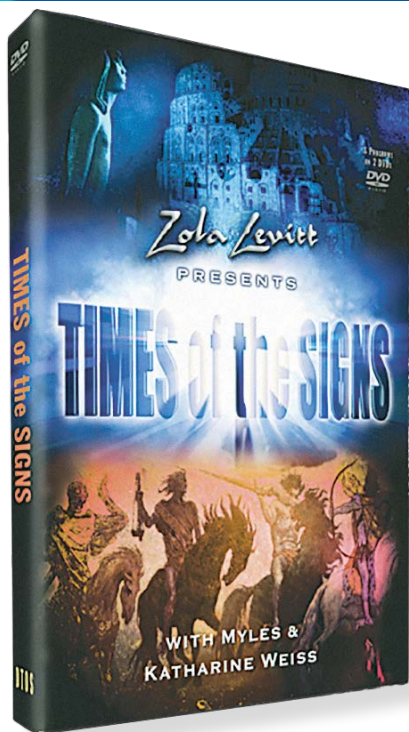
On what station/network do you primarily watch *Our Jewish Roots*? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Times of the Signs DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

In this series, Myles and Katharine Weiss encourage Believers to look beyond the troubling prophetic signs of our day and live in growing expectation of our Messiah's return. Series guests include: Jimmy DeYoung, Jim Fletcher, Jeremy Gimpel, Rabbi Yehuda Glick, Wilfred Hahn, Bill Koenig, Tim LaHaye, Avi Lipkin, Randall Price, David Rubin, Bill Salus, Carl Teichrib, and Andy Woods.

**On the Prophetic Horizon** Reviews the major prophetic signs that point to the return of Yeshua (Jesus) and the quickening pace of prophecy.

**Government on Whose Shoulders?** Satan continues his push to exclude God and install a man-based government over Earth. Mankind's only hope: accepting Yeshua's sacrifice on the Cross.

**Green to the Extreme** As the environmental movement glorifies nature as "Mother Earth," Believers worship the Creator, not creation.

**Bethlehem Rewritten** In Bethlehem, Arab Christians are caught between God's covenants with the Jewish people and replacement theologies powered by Islam. Too many "peace" proposals exclude the Prince of Peace.

**Rebuilding the Temple** Learn the history of the Temple Mount from King David's threshing floor to efforts to build a Third Temple.

**The Heavens Declare** The Lord uses heavenly signs to show us what He is doing, where He is going, and what He asks of us. Believers follow our Messiah, not signs.

**The Sword of Allah** The spiritual battle with radical Islam is wearying, but we mustn't give up; the Lord wants none to perish (2 Peter 3:9) and will return for His own.

**New Heaven, New Earth** Signs like increased knowledge and the Jewish return to Israel point to the return of Yeshua for His bride, and we Believers want no one to miss out.

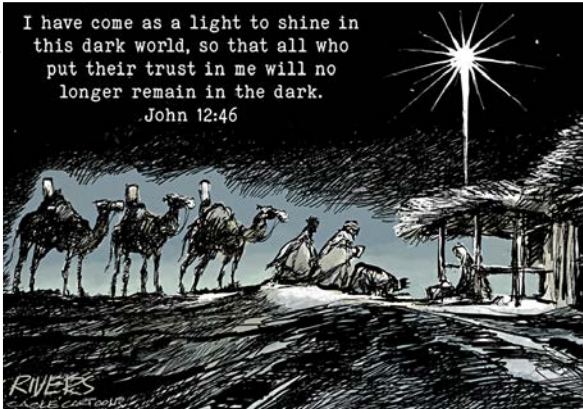


Model of the Second Temple as it might have appeared in A.D. 66 (Israel Museum, Jerusalem)





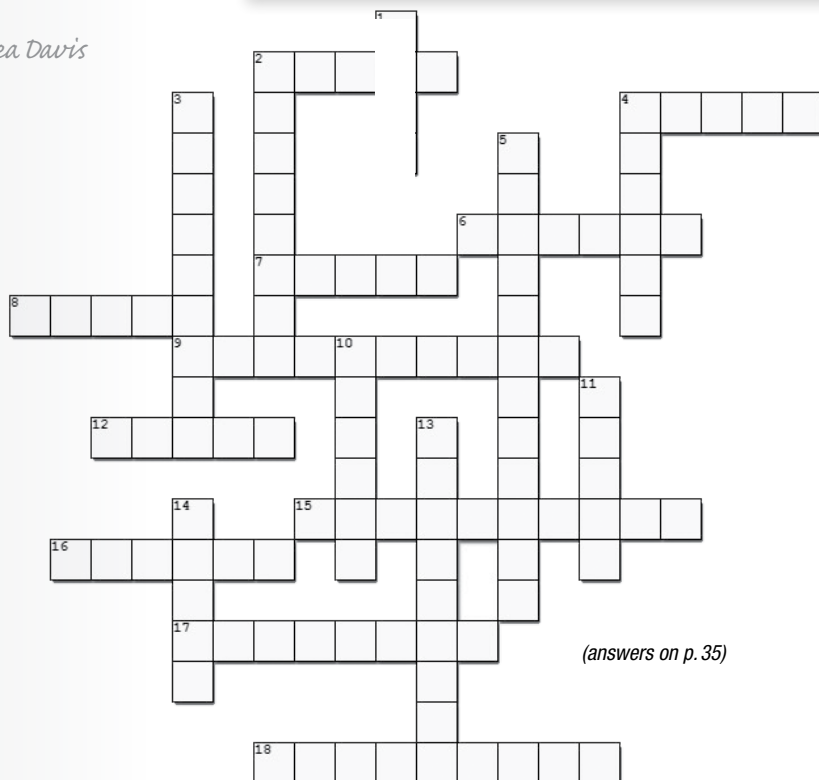
# Fun and Games



## CROSSWORD DECEMBER 2024:

### Christ's Birth (NIV)

by Andrea Davis



(answers on p. 35)

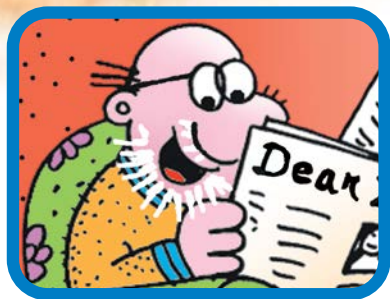
#### ACROSS

- Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found \_\_\_ with God. (Luke 1:30)
- ... and you are to give Him the name \_\_\_ (Matt. 1:21)
- ... She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a \_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:7)
- The Word became \_\_\_ and made His dwelling among us. (John 1:14)
- A Shoot will come up from the stump of \_\_\_; (Isa. 11:1)
- ... she was found to be pregnant through the \_\_\_. (Matt. 1:18)
- ... God sent His Son, born of a \_\_\_, born under the law, (Gal. 4:4)
- ... and the \_\_\_ will be on His shoulders... (Isa. 9:6)
- ... out of you will come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people \_\_\_. (Matt. 2:6)
- ... and give birth to a Son, and they will call Him \_\_\_... (Matt. 1:23)
- ... Magi from the east came to \_\_\_. (Matt. 2:1)

#### DOWN

- ... Do not be afraid. I bring you \_\_\_ news... (Luke 2:10)
- Because Joseph her husband was \_\_\_ to the law... (Matt. 1:19)
- After Jesus was born in \_\_\_ in Judea... (Matt. 2:1)
- ... His mother Mary was pledged to be married to \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 1:18)
- ... and presented Him with gifts of gold, \_\_\_ and myrrh. (Matt. 2:11)
- Today in the town of David a \_\_\_ has been born to you... (Luke 2:11)
- ... an \_\_\_ of the Lord appeared to him in a dream... (Matt. 1:20)
- And there were \_\_\_ living out in the fields... (Luke 2:8)
- ... when I will raise up for \_\_\_ a righteous Branch... (Jer. 23:5)





# Letters to ZLM

Some letters have been edited for space. For ministry products and TV programs, visit our [web store](#) and [free video archives](#).

## Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

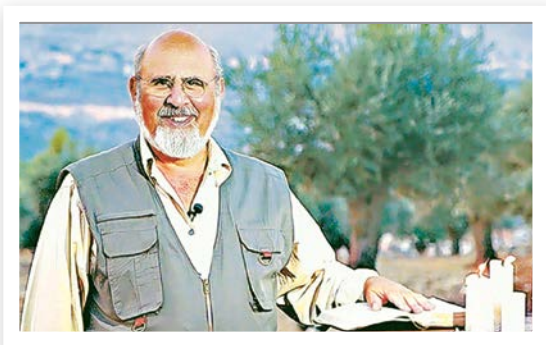
**From D.G.:** Please do a positive write up on my favorite prime minister: **Benjamin Netanyahu**. He is doing the will of God as I see it, and he knows it is "kill or be killed." He knows that the only way to keep Israel safe is to get rid of her enemies, and he's right, so say so in your article. And please, no negatives. Find someone who loves him, Israel, and God to do the write up. God speed to you all.

Shalom, D.G.,

We share your admiration for Prime Minister Netanyahu, and we are proud to voice our opinion on his divinely-inspired direction with which he leads Israel. As you know, the *Levitt Letter* and *Personal Letter* consist of many people's opinions. Although we don't agree with them 100% of the time, we appreciate the value of sharing various opinions.

However, for your sake, and for the sake of hundreds of millions of Christians like you, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank God for appointing Benjamin Netanyahu "for such a time as this." Had the leadership of Israel been under any other watch, the horrific events of October 7 would have escalated far worse. We pray that our brethren in Israel come together in unity at this most difficult time in history, instead of being fickle in their emotions as in the past.

Just as the Israelites wanted to stone Moses and replace him with a fleshly candidate (Num. 14:1-10), we see the cyclical nature of our people reacting impulsively when they don't feel immediate satisfaction. We continue to pray that the blinders are removed from all people in order to see truth, and most importantly the Truth: Yeshua Ha'Mashiach (Jesus the Messiah). — Blessings, Joshua and Caleb



## Zola Levitt

**From M.S.:** I have been part of this ministry for a long time. I cannot remember when I first saw Zola. I have many of the original books that he wrote. I look forward to meeting him in Heaven. God Bless you all and continue guiding people to Jesus.

Dear M.S.,

David and I also look forward to meeting Zola in Heaven. We began co-hosting on the program over eight years ago, which was about a decade after Zola had graduated to his Heavenly reward. —Kirsten

*(continued on next page)*

## Sarah Liberman's articles

**From K.A.:** I almost never look forward to getting “Jesus” mailings because I get so many of them in the mail. This is not the case with Sarah Liberman's articles [in the monthly *Personal Letter*]. Actually, I've caught myself wondering when the next one will arrive. **She brings Israel to life.** Israel holds no particular charm for me currently related to visiting, but I have a vision of standing in the crowd of Believers in Jerusalem all dressed in the same Heavenly garb. We are worshiping the King of kings as He takes His rightful place on the throne of David. Then I know I will be home.

## Yeshua's Second Coming

**From M.P.:** When you say He's coming soon, are we talking in the next 20 years or 200 years?

Dear M.P.,

It can't be too long if you go by the timing of a generation detailed in Matthew 24:34. Visit [YouTube.com/watch?v=fTYVa2o0pXs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTYVa2o0pXs) to learn more about the Fig Tree Generation timing. But if you're looking for an exact date, you won't find it in Scripture. Still, the early Apostles declared that Yeshua was coming soon. Yeshua stated in Revelation 22:12, “Behold I am coming quickly.” Let's just say His Second Coming is a whole lot closer today than it was 2,000 years ago. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

## Thanks for the Levitt Letter

**From R.M.:** I receive your *Levitt Letter* that I share with my 80-year-old mother. I just wanted to let you know that we enjoy your news magazine. Though we have not made any donations yet, we would appreciate it if we could continue receiving it. I sign her up for things, but she never tells me when they stop coming. And I do not want her reading any cult magazines, which unfortunately seem to be the only thing free anymore.

We used to watch Zola on TBN, but my mother no longer comprehends how to use the remote. I come home and work it for her on YouTube through my Fire TV Stick.

Thank you for your ministry. We are praying for Israel.

Dear R.M.,

We are thankful to those who do regularly financially sustain this ministry. **Donors make it possible for your mother and others like her to receive this “free” monthly news magazine** that is costly to produce and mail. Rest assured that you will continue to receive the *Levitt Letter*. I'm glad that your mother is able to watch *Our Jewish Roots* through your Fire TV Stick! —David

## Who are the Elect of God? — Faith Foundations with Dr. Todd Baker on YouTube

**From J.V.:** God chose me; I didn't choose Him. I was lost and I hated God, but He called me out of the darkness and transformed my heart. I'm so thankful that He saved me; I was dead in my sins but He gave me new life! I can't stop praising Him. Now I'm so thankful that He saved me. Thank you for this good video.

Dear J.V.,

Thank you for sharing part of your testimony/story with us after watching Dr. Baker's video at <http://y2u.be/TqV4v7IujqY>. We are rejoicing with you! —David

Please see “Who are the Elect of God?” on p. 14.

*(continued on next page)*



## War with Hezbollah! on YouTube

**From R116:** Man, you guys speak so clearly, directly, and uncompromisingly. You also add a dash of humor! I am so blessed by these videos. God bless you and your families.

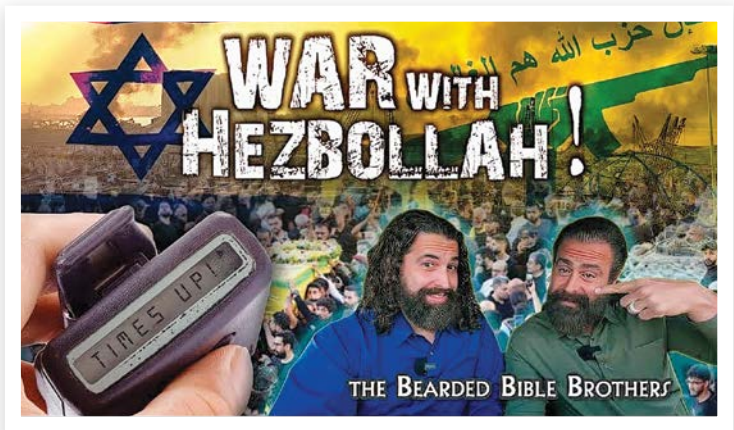
I am a gentile trying my best to talk to my young daughter about the current terrorist attacks against Israel and previous history of anti-Semitism. I'm also talking to her about how we need to stand for God's people, Israel. At school she hears what's happening, so it was definitely time to talk about it.

When talking about the history of anti-Semitism, she asked me sadly, "Why is it always the Jews?" I tried my best to explain that God is watching over them and loves them, but I can tell by her face that all she imagines is the horror that has happened. We left that conversation with me feeling like she still can't make sense of the idea that "If God loves the Jewish people, then why did all that happen and is it still happening?"

In our adult eyes, we know prophecy must be fulfilled and it's going to get uglier, but we are closer to our Blessed Hope. Still, it's hard for young teens/children to understand all this and still believe there is a loving God, just as hard as it could be for an adult to try to understand the sovereignty of God.

**Are you able to make a video about talking to our children/family about the reality of the spiritual warfare behind all the anti-Semitism throughout history but also provide encouragement and love that**

**God has not abandoned any of His children? You brothers always do a good job in speaking of these tough, real situations but also speaking an encouraging message that gives us hope.**



Dear R116,

You're absolutely right that we need to talk to our children about these subject matters. Otherwise, they will be influenced by less accurate or totally inaccurate perspectives that they hear from the world. We both have small children, and this situation comes up frequently. But even more so, adults are asking the same questions. If God loves His Chosen People, why does He allow them to suffer? The most important thing to remember is that when Yeshua left the Earth, He empowered us with all His authority.

The reason that bad things happen to good people is because of the sin nature of the first Adam, and the reason that bad things continue to happen is that Christians do not stand up in the full authority of Messiah to protect those whom He loves. We are God's "hall monitors" on Earth. It's up to us to stop Satan's evil plots. If we fulfill the Great Commission and especially bring those Muslims who hate Israel to the Gospel, they will not react with hate, murder, and destruction anymore.

We truly hope that time will permit us to make videos directed to children in the future. This is an untapped avenue of ministry that needs to be explored. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb ☆



# CBS News Executive: Jerusalem is not in Israel

By Adam Eliyahu  
Berkowitz  
Israel365News.com



**Mark Memmott** (left) CBS News's senior director of standards and practices, emailed all of the network's employees in August, directing them

to "be careful with some terms when we talk or write about the news" from Israel and Gaza.

According to a report in *The Free Press*, Memmott instructed all CBS journalists and reporters regarding Jerusalem: "Do not refer to it as being in Israel. Yes, the U.S. embassy is there, and the Trump administration recognized it as being Israel's capital. But its status is disputed. The status of Jerusalem goes to the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel regards Jerusalem as its 'eternal and undivided' capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem — occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war — as the capital of a future state."

Jerusalem was unified in the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed in its entirety by the Israeli government under the Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel passed by the Knesset in July 1980. **While the U.S. government recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital under the Jerusalem Embassy Act that Congress passed in 1995, President Donald Trump finally opened a U.S. embassy in Jerusalem in 2018.**

The story comes as part of ongoing revelations made by *The Free Press* on "a double standard [that] exists for journal-

ism at CBS when it relates to Israel and Jews."

A previous report revealed a recent meeting of *CBS Mornings'* editorial team debating whether it is "fair to talk about whether Israel should exist at all." During the debate, Tony Dokoupil was admonished by CBS News leadership for his tough questioning of Ta-Nehisi Coates about the inaccuracies and anti-Israel views that Coates expressed in his new book, *The Message*.

"Why leave out that Israel is surrounded by countries that want to eliminate it? Why leave out that Israel deals with terror groups that want to eliminate it?" Dokoupil had asked Coates.

One CBS employee told *The Free Press* that the controversy surrounding Dokoupil, who is Jewish, has revealed a double standard at the network. "There is a huge difference between how all ethnic or minority groups are treated and how Jews and Jewish issues are treated," the CBS insider noted. "The rule of thumb is: If you are Jewish and you are interested in reporting on Jews or Jewish issues, that's a 'hold on' or a 'no,' whereas for any other group it would be an enthusiastic 'yes.'"

[A legal watchdog group filed a complaint with the FCC, accusing CBS News of "significant and intentional news distortion" in its editing of the 60 Minutes interview with Kamala Harris that aired on October 7. —Mark ☆](#)



# Smartwatches Could Cut Spread of Contagious Disease

By Pesach Benson  
UnitedWithIsrael.org



Physiological sensors in smartwatches can detect infectious diseases days before symptoms appear, potentially averting future pandemics. In a two-year study involving nearly 5,000 participants, researchers from Tel Aviv University (TAU) found that the wearables could detect changes in vital signs 23 hours before the first COVID-19 symptom, 62 hours before symptoms of Group A streptococcus (GAS), and 73 hours before influenza symptoms appeared.

The findings also suggest that early detection via wearable technology can prompt reduced social contacts when a contagious disease is most infectious, thus potentially preventing wide-spread outbreak.

“Previous studies have shown that during the recent pandemic, about 40% of all transmissions occurred about a day before the first symptoms appeared. In other words, the person transmitting the disease was not yet aware that he/she was infected,” noted TAU Prof. Dan Yamin, who led the study, which was published in *The Lancet Regional Health-Europe*.

Participants answered daily health questionnaires and also wore smartwatches that continuously monitored key physiological parameters. The smartwatches recorded pulse rate and heart rate variability (HRV) at 15-second intervals, providing data on heart and brain activity.

“When a person becomes ill, the immune system prioritizes fighting the disease, keeping the heart rate relatively steady and reducing HRV. These changes indicate physical stress,” Yamin explained.

Participants also had home test kits for COVID-19, influenza, and GAS, which they used at their discretion.

Over two years, the researchers collected 800,000 questionnaires and compared this data with the smartwatch readings, documenting 2,206 COVID-19 cases, 490 influenza cases, and 320 GAS cases.

Researchers found that the first physiological anomaly in heart rate measures appeared 96 hours after exposure to COVID-19, but individuals didn’t notice the first symptom until 130 hours after exposure. The testing that ultimately diagnosed the disease happened about 168 hours after exposure. These intervals were even shorter for influenza and GAS.

Despite early symptom detection, participants tended to delay testing, resulting in prolonged periods of unintentional disease spread. Prof. Erez Shmueli, also from TAU, added that most people did not avoid contact with others until after the disease had peaked, when they were less likely to infect others.

Yamin stressed that **digital diagnosis can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases by prompting earlier changes in social behavior**. Early diagnosis is also vital for effective treatment, particularly for COVID-19, where treatments are most effective when administered early.

“Our new method using wearable sensors for early detection can potentially reduce epidemic threats to a minimum,” Yamin added.

Please see [page 14 of the April 2024 Levitt Letter for my Note from Mark, entitled, “Gauging Your Temple?”](#) It describes my Garmin Vivoactive 5’s features and includes links for researching Garmin and Apple smartwatches. —Mark ☆

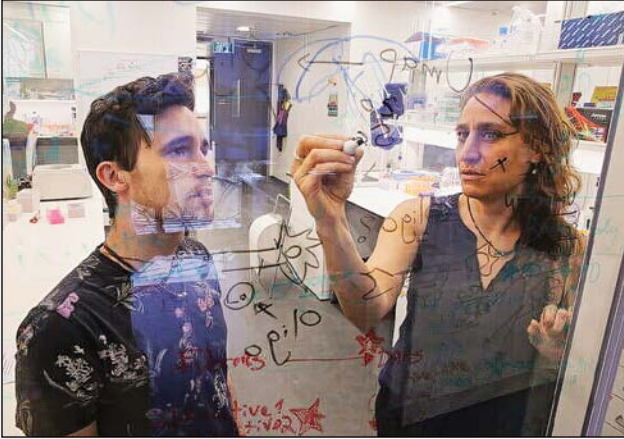


# Discovering Alzheimer's Markers 20 Years Before Onset

By Diana Bletter  
TimesOfIsrael.com



credit: Yonit Schiller

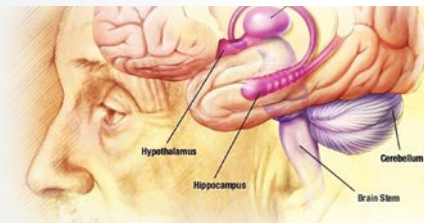


Prof. Naomi Habib with PhD student Gilad Green

Researchers at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem have discovered a distinct cellular pathway in the brain that indicates markers for future onset of Alzheimer's disease, some 20 years before symptoms would be exhibited. **This early detection could eventually lead to a treatment to prevent the degenerative disease.**

"The study shows that Alzheimer's disease is not just a form of accelerated aging but follows a different cellular path," explained Prof. Naomi Habib, who led an international team of researchers in the study.

"We now believe we know what's driving the disease, but we need to prove that changing the response would reverse that," she added.



credit: National Institute for Aging / Wikimedia Commons

Using data from 437 aging brains, the researchers mapped 1.65 million brain cells and showed that these cellular changes — which start at least 20 years before the first signs of dementia — determine the fate of the aging brain and the progression of Alzheimer's.

Previously, researchers only had access to post-mortem brain tissue. Thus, they could only compare advanced cases of "Alzheimer's brains with healthy brains," Habib noted. Their information was biased because they only had "a tiny window into the late stage of the disease." There was also no way to isolate the different parts of the brain tissue.

In recent years, however, researchers built the data set to map 1.65 million brain cells. At the same time, Habib and the other researchers developed an innovative algorithm that enabled them to examine those brain cells' trajectories.

Now that research has found the molecular markers, **"we can predict if an individual is on the cellular path to healthier aging or a path to Alzheimer's,"** Habib explained. "We were able to untangle these two processes occurring in these aging brains and look at the entire dynamics. We can see what's happening along the different stages."

Habib, who watched relatives suffer from cognitive decline, is passionate about talking to people about how they can prevent Alzheimer's, and age more healthily. "For most individuals, there is a genetic risk for Alzheimer's disease, but healthy aging is also determined by your lifestyle." Thus, what we eat, our level of exercise, and our community engagement have an impact.

"Lifestyle is not something you should start thinking about when you're 80," Habib remarked. "It's important to lower your blood pressure and blood sugar to prevent the DNA damage and inflammation that might drive Alzheimer's disease."

"Even before the big discovery of the Alzheimer's drug, which we are all working for, there are insights that people can use in their daily life," Habib concluded. ☆



# “Recovered Anti-Semite” Advocates for Israel

By Amelie Botbol  
JNS.org



credit: YouTube Screenshot



Loay Alshareef and Montana Tucker in Santa Monica, California in August 2024

“I went from someone who said that Israel and the Jewish people were cursed to saying, ‘How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwelling places, Israel,’” explained Loay Alshareef, an Arab-Muslim activist who campaigns for peace in the Middle East.

Alshareef, a self-described recovered anti-Semite, was born and raised a religious Muslim in Saudi Arabia. In 2010, he decided to participate in a language immersion program in France. The program gave participants choices — such as staying in homes that had pets or whether they wanted a single or double room — but asked nothing about religion. Surprisingly, he was placed with a Jewish family.

“When I saw a big Star of David in their living room, I realized they were Jewish. Before them, I never had an encounter with a Jewish person. At the time, we only knew about Jews from extremist scholars. I was very anti-Jew, anti-Israel, and even anti-Christian because of my education,” Alshareef explained.

Initially, he emailed the school asking to be moved elsewhere because he did not feel comfortable. “When you see the Star of David, what comes to mind immediately is Egyptian TV, Arabic songs that associate it with the Mossad, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, and the Israeli armed forces,” Alshareef noted. “It is scary.”

Despite the religious differences, Alshareef lived with the Jewish family for a couple of months. He stated: “I was able to ask the family all my questions about Judaism and Israel. This was really the trigger to make me want to learn more. I fell in love with the Hebrew Bible.

“I still practice Islam. I’m still a Muslim, but I

have different ideas from the dangerous ones I had when I was young,” he added.

Alshareef started advocating for Israel in 2017. “You receive a lot of hate. I defend the idea that Israel is an entity that existed 3,000 years ago and was reborn in 1948. It is very ironic that we, as Muslims, name our kids after prophets, kings and heroes



Credit: Main-sail / iStock



(continued on next page)

who are Jewish, but we don't connect the dots.

"There is zero contradiction between feeling the suffering of the Palestinians and believing that Israel has the right to exist. I love the Palestinians as much as I love the Israelis, I support their right to live in dignity and to exist peacefully side by side," Alshareef continued.

While noting that the situation in Gaza was not ideal before October 7, he added that Hamas's massacre made things worse. "I'm against Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and all those monsters who want to destroy Israel and kill all the Jews.

"There was no [Israeli] occupation of Gaza on October 7. Israel unilaterally withdrew in the summer of 2005. There was a siege but only because of threats coming from Gaza."

He continued: "There was room for improvement, but the way to reach it is through peace, in the same way that Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat did it [in 1979]; not through wars but through negotiations."

The timing of Hamas's October 7 massacre was no coincidence, according to Alshareef. "Iran issued a command

to Hamas to launch its assault because Saudi Arabia was so close to normalizing relations with Israel."

Alshareef lives in the United Arab Emirates and believes in that Gulf country's example set with the Abraham Accords. "Countering Iran means having more peace treaties with Israel. It means integrating Israel more into the region. Once Israel becomes what it should be as part of the Middle East, the enemies of peace will be put in a tight corner and isolated. This is how we defeat Tehran, and this is what I hope happens."

In September, he spoke at a Jewish community organization in Montreal. While there, he also tried to secure an engagement with an Arab group. "I want people to listen to someone who held their views in the past but changed them with knowledge, facts, and the truth." One Arab organization turned him down, explaining that the audience was not interested in hearing his views, which they deemed were too supportive of Israel.

Still, Alshareef remains optimistic about the future of the Middle East. "I believe that God assigned us with a mission to fix the world, heal the world, *Tikkun Olam*. This holy mission is our fuel." ✨



(l to r) Jerry Rothstein, co-founder and COO of StandWithUs (SWU); former Boston Celtics player and activist Enes Kanter Freedom; Loay Alshareef; and Roz Rothstein, co-founder and CEO of SWU, in Los Angeles on December 10, 2023



credit: David Saranga / X

Fawzia Amin Sido met her relatives on October 3, 2024.

# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

## IDF Rescues Yazidi Woman Kidnapped by ISIS

IsraFan.com

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recently rescued Fawzia Amin Sido, a Yazidi woman kidnapped by ISIS at the age of 11 and trafficked to Gaza, where she had been held for a decade. The rescue was coordinated with the U.S. and others, who successfully reunited Sido with her family in Iraq.

Sido was abducted in 2014 during ISIS's brutal attack on the Yazidi community in Sinjar, Iraq, in which thousands were killed or enslaved. She was eventually sold to a man from Gaza, where she remained captive. Recently, her captor was killed in an Israeli strike in Gaza, allowing her to escape and seek help.

In a statement, the IDF stressed that this is further evidence of the connection between Hamas and ISIS, noting the crimes committed by these terror groups.

Fawzia's story is a powerful reminder of the horrors faced by the Yazidi community. In 2014, ISIS launched a campaign of genocide against the Yazidis, resulting in over 5,000 deaths and the abduction of more than 6,000 Yazidis, primarily women and children. Many were sold into slavery or indoctrinated into extremist ideologies. While thousands have been rescued over the years, approximately 2,600 remain missing.



credit: Bridges for Peace

South African Christians donated emergency rapid response vehicles to Israel.

## South African Christians Supporting Israel

By Etgar Lefkovits / JNS.org

Christians in South Africa donated two emergency rapid response vehicles for use in Israeli communities near the border with Gaza, in a repudiation of their government's policies toward the Jewish state. Recently, South Africa has emerged as one of Israel's most active opponents, having taken it to the U.N's International Court of Justice on genocide charges over the war against Hamas in Gaza.

"The name of South Africa has been tarnished by the ANC government over a protracted period, particularly after the October 7 attacks, but there is a lot of support for and admiration of Israel in South Africa based on Judeo-Christian values," stated Chris Edens, the head of the South African office of Bridges for Peace, which is behind the initiative\*.

Relations between Jerusalem and Pretoria have plunged to an all-time low with no operational embassy or consulate in Tel Aviv and both countries' ambassadors

*(continued on next page)*





credit: WIZO



Expressions of support from South African Christians

recalled. Beyond taking Israel to the U.N. court, then-South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor also visited Iran on October 22, 2023 — two weeks after the Iranian-financed, Hamas terror attack on Israel. In addition, Johannesburg hosted a Hamas delegation to South Africa in December 2023.

Bridges for Peace also joined the Women’s International Zionist Organization (WIZO) in sending thousands of handwritten “letters of love” from Christians in South Africa to Israeli soldiers on the front lines and families who have been displaced by the war.

**“You don’t hear this on the media, but there are thousands upon thousands of Believers in South Africa that are standing with Israel, and we want to show our comfort and support to stand strong,”** noted Liz Campbell Robertson, chair of the Christian branch of WIZO in Cape Town.

**\* For decades, ZLM has forwarded donations designated for Bridges for Peace. For a list of our ministry’s favorite benevolence funds, see [page 14 of the May 2021 Levitt Letter](#).**

## Bojangles Restaurants use Israeli AI

By Zachy Hennessey / Israel21c.org

Hi Auto, an Israeli artificial intelligence (AI) company, has announced an expanded partnership with Bojangles, the U.S.-based chicken and biscuits restaurant chain. The Hi Auto technology will automate routine drive-through tasks. **With an accuracy rate exceeding 95%**, the company claims that this rivals human performance and surpasses other voice AI solutions in the market.

Bojangles, which calls the technology “Bo-Linda,” has successfully implemented it in over 50 restaurants. The latest agreement will deploy the voice AI platform in hundreds of additional Bojangles locations, both company-owned and franchised.

“We recognized the opportunity to use this technology to improve the employee experience, which would extend to an improved guest experience,” noted Richard Del Valle, Chief Information Officer at Bojangles.



Hi Auto’s voicebot processing orders at a Bojangles restaurant

Roy Baharav, CEO of Hi Auto, explained that this is not simply another attempt by the modern business industry to remove humans from the payroll. “We believe in technology that works hand-in-hand with human capabilities. Our AI solution is designed to enhance, not replace, the valuable skills and expertise of Bojangles’ employees,” he stated. “By automating routine tasks, we free up time for restaurant employees to focus on building meaningful connections with customers and embracing more intricate aspects of their roles.” ☆

To Index



## Scientists Revive Ancient Tree Possibly Mentioned in Genesis

By David Isaac  
JNS.org



credit: Guy Eisner



(l to r) Dr. Elaine Solowey of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and Dr. Sarah Sallon of Hadassah Medical Center with "Sheba"

can be fully described. It had already been identified through DNA sequencing as belonging to the genus *Commiphora Jacq*, a genus of myrrh. Myrrh is a gum-resin used in medicine, incense, and perfume (frankincense being the best-known used in the latter two).

Identifying the Sheba seed wasn't easy. Scientists first surmised that it was a candidate for the "Judean Balsam" or "Balm of Judea," a

highly fragrant tree or shrub exclusive to the region and cultivated in antiquity. However,

The ancient seed



An ancient mystery seed that was found in a cave in the Judean Desert four decades ago has been revived. Dating from A.D. 993-1202, the seed was nicknamed "Sheba" after the queen of Saba (also called Sheba) located in South Arabia. According to first-century historian Josephus, the queen brought the balsam root to King Solomon as a gift. [The queen's visit to Jerusalem is recorded in 1 Kings 10:1-13.]

The tree grown from the seed, now 14 years old, is about 10 feet tall and has reached the point where most of its characteristics



Leaves showing fine hairs at 12 years



credit: Guy Eisner

(continued on next page)



after further analysis in which little or no fragrance was found in the leaves, bark, or resin, scientists believe that it may be an extinct species of *Commiphora* whose resinous extract, *tsori* (Hebrew for "flow" or "drip"), was first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis (37:25; 43:11).

In the Biblical sources, it was associated with healing, but not described as fragrant. Strengthening this hypothesis, chemical analysis of its leaves and resin revealed many compounds known to be medicinal, including high levels (30%) of squalene, positive for the skin as an emollient, antioxidant, hydrator, and anti-tumor agent.

Biblical *tsori* was associated with the historical region of Gilead in the Dead Sea-Jordan Rift Valley, a forested mountain area in antiquity with a lower fertile, cultivated valley. The Sheba seed was found in a cave in that valley.

Scientists aren't certain whether humans or animals left the seed in the cave, but the small number of seeds in the cave suggest animals as the source. Small rodents store *Commiphora* seeds and its ripe fruits are eaten by birds.

It is unknown when or if the Sheba plant will flower. ☆

## The Prophesied Messiah witnessing bookmark

This handsomely designed 2¼" x 7" sturdy bookmark is an excellent witnessing tool.

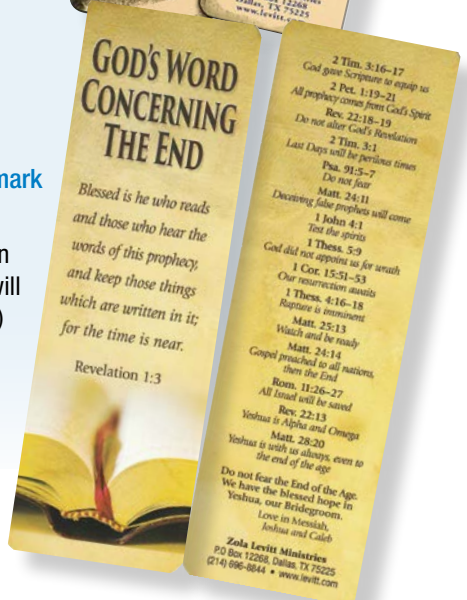
**The Prophesied Messiah** bookmark gives Old Testament Scriptures declaring details of Who the Messiah of Israel would be and what He would experience and accomplish. *The Prophesied Messiah* book's description appears on p.3.

## The End witnessing bookmark

This handsomely designed 2¼" x 7" sturdy bookmark is an excellent witnessing tool.

While End-Times events can be unsettling, God is in control. The Biblical references on this bookmark will inform and encourage all who know Yeshua (Jesus) as Messiah.

*Upon request, receive one bookmark free with any purchase or donation. Or you can send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope.*



# Muslim Cleric: Genies Helped Israel Kill Nasrallah

By Robert Spencer  
PJMedia.com



The Israelis recently astounded the world with several unparalleled feats of wartime ingenuity, most notably the explosion of thousands of paggers that belonged to high-level Hezbollah operatives. Adding to that was the elimination of arch-terrorist Hassan Nasrallah of Hezbollah, who had been in hiding for nearly two decades and was in a bunker 60 feet underground when he died. One Iranian Muslim cleric, however, claimed that Israel's success wasn't due to ingenuity. Instead, they had a certain "supernatural" help.

Mostafa Karami, who teaches at a Shi'ite Muslim seminary in Iran, claimed that the Israelis were able to kill Nasrallah with the aid of *jinn*, or genies. According to the Koran, *jinn* are spirit beings that Allah created from "smokeless fire" (55:15). These beings can be dangerous — the Koran adds that the "assembly of the *jinn*" has "seduced many among mankind" (6:128), and some of them even try to turn prophets away from their mission.

Karami stated: "Considering the Zionists' history of subjugating genies, they carry out many of their missions through this means, and **demons are their secret army**." According to Karami, Nasrallah wasn't the first victim of the Zionist *jinn*: "They [the Jews] have had access to genies and cosmic science since the time of David and Solomon. Historically, they have always used genies, their documents and traditions proved that. They have used genies and demons for warfare and intelligence operations throughout history."

Apparently, that explains the stunning, against-all-odds Israeli victories in 1948, 1967, and 1973.

Muhammad ibn al-Uthaymeen, a 20<sup>th</sup>-century Islamic scholar, explained how *jinn* operate: "There are numerous reports which indicate that a man may come to a deserted area, and a stone may be thrown at him, but he does not see anybody, or he may hear voices or a rustling sound like the rustling of trees, and other things that may make him feel distressed and scared. A *jinn* may also enter the body of a human, either because of love or with the intention of harming him, or for some other reason."



credit: Iran International English / X Screenshot

Israel used 'genies' to locate and kill Nasrallah, Iranian cleric says

Of course, it isn't just the *jinn* who are adversaries to the Muslims. The Koran describes Jews as "the most vehement of mankind in hostility to those who believe" (5:82). So why shouldn't these two great enemies of Muslims join forces?

Please see ["Flipper Alert" on page 15 of the March 2022 Levitt Letter](#), which noted that Hamas accused "killer Zionist dolphins" of spying on its operatives and naval forces in Gaza. The dolphins were apparently being used for military porpoises! —Mark ☆





# Jewish Humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is good medicine — Proverbs 17:22

## Gifts of the Season

Sam was shopping at the mall when he saw his friend Abe outside a jewelry store. Sam noticed that Abe was holding a small, gift-wrapped box.

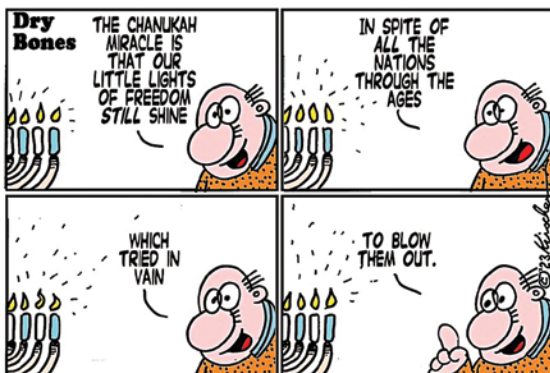
“So, what did you buy, Abe?”

Sam asked.

“Well, Hanukkah begins soon,” replied Abe, “and when I asked my wife what she wanted, she said, ‘Oh, I don’t know, dear, just give me something with a lot of diamonds in it.’”

“So, what did you get her?” Sam asked.

Abe smiled and remarked, “I bought her a deck of cards.”



Answer Key for  
DECEMBER 2024  
Crossword (p. 21)

### ACROSS:

- 2. Favor
- 4. Jesus
- 6. Manger
- 7. Flesh
- 8. Jesse
- 9. Holy Spirit
- 12. Woman
- 15. Government
- 16. Israel
- 17. Immanuel
- 18. Jerusalem

### DOWN:

- 1. Good
- 2. Faithful
- 3. Bethlehem
- 4. Joseph
- 5. Frankincense
- 10. Savior
- 11. Angel
- 13. Shepherds
- 14. David

## Social Media Outlets

ZLM’s social media outreach now includes:

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OurJewishRoots>
- X/Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Rumble: <https://www.rumble.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/OurJewishRoots>





## Two-Flag collar pin

With interlocking American and Israeli flags, this unique full-color pin proudly encourages the unity of the U.S.A. and the Holy Land. What a terrific way to create opportunities to witness about Israel's importance in the Bible, the accuracy of Biblical prophecy, and God's gift of grace!

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## Zola Tours DISCOVER ISRAEL



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Joshua & Caleb Colson in  
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or email [travel@levitt.com](mailto:travel@levitt.com)

A refundable deposit by credit card will hold your reservation.

See you in  
Jerusalem!



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